(f) whether the work has been abandoned;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether there is any fresh move to exploit this mineral wealth; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (i). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand for Railway Station

2933. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the long standing demand for a Railway Station at Khusigachi, place between Baidyaabati and Bhadreswar in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The proposal for opening of passenger halt at Khurigachi between Baidyabati and Bhadreswar stations has been examined but not found justified on operational, engineering and financial grounds. Besides, the proposal has also not been found justified on passenger amenity grounds due to availability of other modes of transport for people to commute in that area.

Demand Of More Funds For Development of Tourism

2934. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has demanded more funds from the Union Government for the develepment of some particular tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the amount released, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Each year the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government officials prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance. These projects are identified on the basis of their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism has prioritised 8 projects at an estimatd cost of Rs. 250 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97 to Orissa.

(b) and (c). The detail of projects sanctioned and the amount released to Orissa during the last two years is enclosed In the statement

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned During 1994-95

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanct-ioned (Rs. in	Amount relea-sed lakhs)
Orissa			
1.	Tourist cemplex at Hirakund	40.39	14.62
2.	Tourist lodge at Rayagada	25.20	1.00
3.	Tourist complex at Narsingnath	41.23	1.00
4.	Tourist complex at Korapat	42.43	7.00
5.	Illumination of Sea Beach at Puri	5.46	3.00
6.	Beach Festival 1994	10.00	8.00
7.	Rajaseri Festival 1995	1.60	1.00
	Total	166.31	35.62

Projects/ Schemes Sanctioned For The Year 1995-96

Orissa			
1.	Amentities Centre at Dhauli	20.26	10.00
2.	Tourist lodge at Badarama	36.41	18.00
3.	Floating restaurant at Barkal	42.89	21.00
4.	Beach cleaners equipment Puri, Orissa.	9.30	5.00
	Total	108.86	54.00

Gauge Conversion

2935. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved conversion of Salem to Kashmir via Ranchipuram and Namakkal Meter Gauge line into Broad Gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) There is no such project of conversion of Salem to Kashmir line. However, a Broad Gauge route is already available connecting Salem and Jammu.

Abandoned Vehicles in MTNL, Delhi

2936. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMINUCATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several vehicles in MTNL, Delhi have been abandoned by the Nigam and its drivers are sitting idl